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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF WALPOLE,

WITH THE

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT.

1861-62.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

PRINTED AT THE PHENIX JOB PRINTING OFFICE.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Schools

OF THE

TOWN OF WATSON

FOR

THE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

1881

WATSON, MASS.

PRINTED AT THE PRESS OF THE TOWN OF WATSON

1881

REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 2.—There were three terms of this school this year, owing to illness among the scholars. The first two terms, of eight weeks each, are embraced in the report usually made for the Summer term. The school was kept the first term by Miss Elsin D. Rice, who was unable to cope successfully with the many difficulties which this school presents, though we feel sure that she endeavored to do her duty. For the remainder of the year Miss R. Marion Albee was employed, whose experience gained in this school enabled her to fulfil her task much more acceptably, as much so, perhaps, as could have been expected, taking into consideration the character of the school. We would refer those interested in this district to the Register, and particularly to the number of those tardy and absent, as a sufficient cause for want of success. We must admit, however, that some of these marks are chargeable to whooping-cough.

No. 3.—The Summer School was taught by Miss C. B. Ellis, a faithful, efficient and thorough teacher. The appearance of the school was very satisfactory. Winter.—Mr. H. Woodward, the teacher, was well fitted for his place, and kept a good school.

No. 4.—was taught by Miss E. A. Kingsbury during the Summer, and during the Winter by Mr. J. Livingston Green. Both teachers seemed to have succeeded in interesting the scholars,—one of the first requisites for success. The schol-

ars have uniformly presented a good appearance, both as regards deportment, and advancement in their studies.

No. 5.—This school was taught, both in Summer and Winter, by Miss Martha Church. The school was very small, and there was nothing very marked in its character. It seemed to have progressed pleasantly.

No. 6.—In Summer Miss Rosella E. Fay made her first attempt in teaching, and succeeded well. All the scholars recited promptly and correctly. Winter.—Miss Carrie O. Mason teacher. Here again we found a good school. The teacher was competent and faithful, and the scholars appeared well.

No. 7.—There was no school in Summer. In Winter Miss Mary F. Proctor taught. At the opening we were pleased with the prospect for the term. But owing to the insuperable snow-drifts it was not visited at the close, and we cannot speak of results.

No. 8.—An unusual amount of illness retarded the progress of this school, which was closed for a short time in the Summer. The Teachers, Miss Emily J. Merriam during the Summer, and Mr. Ellery R. Merriam during the Winter, have, we think, exerted themselves and succeeded in most respects, but have both failed in preserving that good order so necessary to the success of any school; without which quality a school can hardly be considered to be well kept.

No. 9.—Summer term taught by Miss Emma J. Mason. The school was interrupted by sickness of the teacher, which, probably, was unfavorable for its interests; and at our visit, on the last day but one of the term, we found but few of the scholars present. Consequently we cannot speak positively of the progress made, but the fact of so many being absent was presumptive evidence that the school had not

accomplished all it should. The Winter School was taught by Miss Lodusky M. Rugg. This term did not progress satisfactorily. At its commencement we did not see any appearance of disorder, but near the middle of the school, we heard complaints, and on visiting it, found a lack of proper order and discipline; but as Miss Rugg appeared disposed to labor faithfully for the advancement of the scholars, and as the recitations and progress of classes were pretty good, we thought best to allow her to go on with the school, and requested her to enforce a more rigorous discipline. Afterwards we visited the school and found there had been improvement in order, although not so much as should have been. Less than two weeks before the close of the school, a petition signed by a minority of the legal voters was presented, asking the dismissal of the teacher; but taking all the circumstances in consideration, we concluded the term might as well be continued. We think the teacher was not firm enough in enforcing her authority, which lack of firmness arose, in part perhaps, from the want of sympathy and support from the parents. But we think the teacher is entitled to the credit of trying to do all she could to promote the interests of the school, and considerable advancement was made in the studies.

No. 10.—Miss Nettie R. Burnham taught the Summer term, and Miss Augusta F. Ames the Winter term. Both were efficient and successful teachers.

No. 11.—The Summer School was taught by Miss Cornelia A. Hodskins, and although this was her first effort at teaching, she succeeded very well. Miss Mary L. Watkins had the care of the Winter term, and sustained fully her reputation as a good teacher.

No. 12.—Miss Carrie O. Mason taught this school in Summer very successfully. For the Winter term Mr. Charles A. Fiske, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was employed.

He was a teacher of considerable experience, and appeared in every way competent to manage a school successfully. At our first visit we regarded the prospect for the term as flattering. During the term we were in a short time, and saw nothing to condemn, though we heard that some scholars had left, as was said, because he could not teach them. If this was so, considering the rank of Mr. Fiske as a scholar, their attainments must be very great. At the end of ten weeks he returned his Register, saying that he had left the school, as he could not and would not remain longer to be treated as he had been. We did not like this manner of closing up, and advised him to return and let the matter be investigated so as to show where the fault was. As he would not consent to this, we cannot say who was most blamable; but it is our honest opinion that if all parties had done what they could to sustain the teacher, they would have had a good school.

No. 13.—Summer term, Miss Irena Wellington, teacher. This school was well taught, and made good advancement; but from some cause there were too many instances of tardiness. Mr. D. W. Gilbert taught the Winter term. Some persons complained that the teacher was inefficient, but we cannot understand how they came to that conclusion, as, according to the Register, they had not visited the school. We think Mr. Gilbert took much interest in his work, and succeeded well. He might have exercised more energy with profit; but the deportment of the scholars was fair, and their recitations in some branches remarkably good. The same want of interest and punctuality on the part of the scholars existed as in the previous term, shown by the large number of tardinesses and absences. A reform is needed in this respect.

No. 14.—This school, under the care of Miss M. J. Kingsbury during the Summer term, and Miss E. A. Kingsbury this Winter, has made good progress; and merits a

more active interest in its welfare, than has been shown by the public; and with perhaps one exception, all the scholars have exerted themselves, and their recitations, and examinations, prove the care which has been taken, by both the scholars and the teachers, with their studies.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the past year the Committee have introduced but one new book into the schools,—Weld and Quackenbos' English Grammar, for which there seemed to be a pressing need. Not that there were not grammars enough before; but because this one seemed to embrace within its few pages more which was plain and practical than any other, while it could be more easily adapted to others now in use than Greene's Analysis, which requires almost a new start to study it with advantage. This book was introduced on favorable terms, and all others could be exchanged by paying a small price in addition. The rule adopted by the Committee was that all purchasing new grammars should buy this one only.

It is our desire to call the attention of the parents, pupils and teachers also, to the tables which have been made out regarding the schools, and two things in particular, seem to us to claim not only their attention but their earnest and united co-operation that in future there may be less cause for complaint in these particulars.

These are the two lines giving the absences and tardinesses, in the various schools, for both terms, Summer and Winter, and curiosity has led us to make a few deductions from these figures. We find that during the Summer months, the whole number of scholars in all the districts except District number 1, was 215; the whole number of absences, 2,357, and of tardinesses, 477; giving an average of nearly 11 absences and 2 cases of tardiness per scholar. During the Winter months the number of scholars was 300, absences 3,997, and tardinesses 767, or an average of

$13\frac{1}{3}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ for absence and tardiness respectively. The average of tardiness seems nearly the same in Winter as in Summer, while the average absence seems greater, and were it so, the illness in some of our schools this past Winter, would seem to be a good and sufficient cause, but unfortunately for this plausible excuse, the facts do not prove it.

If we deduct the number of scholars neither tardy nor absent from the whole number, the average absence and tardiness in both Summer and Winter are almost the same, being only the difference of a fractional part of one, the absences giving an average of about $14\frac{1}{2}$ in each term, and the tardinesses giving an average of nearly 5. While if we take the average for the whole number of scholars for the whole year, we should find that about four from each school were each day absent.

This would seem to be reason enough for almost any want of improvement in the schools; still in spite of these drawbacks they have improved, and it only shows how much more might be accomplished with a more constant attendance. This is not said with any spirit of fault-finding, but to endeavor if possible to impress upon the minds of all interested, the importance of a constant and punctual attendance on the part of scholars; a habit of promptness which if now developed will become a part of their nature and enter into every future act of their lives. Parents should strive to help the teachers of their schools by never allowing anything to interfere with the constant attendance of their children at their schools, and try to arouse that pride in them which tends towards punctuality. A comparatively poor teacher well seconded, will succeed, while the best, if hampered, if they do not fail, will at any rate fall far short of their standard of success.

A school is not unlike a piece of machinery, and the successful working of the machine depends upon its being kept in proper working order, and the absence of any of the component parts detracts from its efficiency. This we

think must appear evident to all, and we trust that no effort will be spared to enable our schools to move on uninterruptedly, quietly, and with the best possible order, and punctuality in all respects ; and to obtain these results no one thing seems more necessary, than that the parents should aid the teachers, and endeavor to smooth away the many trials and perplexities which lie in the paths of even the best teachers, in the best of schools.

J. M. STOW,
J. WM. KNIGHT,
HENRY G. WHEELLOCK.

TABLE I.
SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS,-----	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of School, in weeks,-----	16	12	12	10	10		14	12	12	8	12	12	12
Wages of female Teacher per month, including board,-----	\$14.50	\$15	\$16	\$11	\$10		\$12	\$15	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$12	\$17
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards,-----	27	20	25	7	7		15	24	13	16	31	15	15
Average attendance,-----	19½	13½	22	6½	6¼		12½	20	12½	15	27½	13	14
Scholars between 4 and 16,-----	27	19	25	7	7		15	23	13	16	31	15	15
Scholars over 16,-----	0	1	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of tardinesses,-----	281	12	34	7	0		9	14	26	9	17	57	11
Number not absent,-----	2	4	4	1	3		3	7	0	14	2	5	7
Number not tardy,-----	0	12	17	3	7		8	19	2	12	17	12	7
Number not absent nor tardy,-----	0	3	3	1	3		3	6	0	4	3	5	2
Number of absences,-----	674	422	189	32	41		210	264	44	44	251	120	65
Number of visits by Superintending Committee,-----	1	2	1	2	2		1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,-----	0	0	2	0	1		0	1	1	0	3	1	3
Number of visits by citizens and others,-----	24	48	63	13	43		30	46	59	42	49	20	21

SCHOOL REPORT DISTRICT NO. 1.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

The Spring term was taught by Miss Annah D. Smith, who had conducted the school successfully during the previous year. The school appeared well, and we were entirely satisfied with the manner in which it was managed. Good advancement was made.

Miss Abbie P. Blake was engaged for the second term, and proved to be the right teacher, in the right place. It was a highly successful school. Never have we been better pleased with its appearance.

For the Winter Miss S. H. Cilley was employed. She conducted the school in a mild and pleasant manner, and in most respects successfully. There seemed to be a want of system and energy in some things, but at the close the scholars behaved with propriety, and recited well. Much attention has been given to physical exercise in this school by all the teachers, and we think very profitably.

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

Miss Rosette H. Rust taught during the first term with her usual fidelity and success. For the next term Mrs. Howard, a lady of excellent character and education, was employed. She tried to do well in school, but she seemed to be wanting in ability to maintain proper discipline, and to reduce the school to a thorough system. Considerable progress was made by some of the classes, yet the school was not all we could have wished.

The Winter term was under the care of Miss Blake, who exercised a more rigid authority and succeeded well. The deportment of the scholars, in general, was good, and the advancement satisfactory. The general exercises which

this teacher introduced into her schools, we think a very pleasant and profitable feature. Scholars can be taught many important things which are not in the books.

HIGH SCHOOL.

In the Spring there was no school in this department, and some of the younger scholars were allowed to attend the Intermediate School.

For the other two terms, Mr. A. T. Howard, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was employed. He proved to be a thorough and efficient teacher. The school was much larger than usual, and we think has never made better progress in the various branches taught. Yet we are constrained to say that we think Mr. Howard needs to cultivate more suavity of manners, and to be more chaste and guarded in his expressions before his scholars, in order to be as successful as he is capable of being. Lacking in these qualities, he did not gain the respect of his pupils as he would have done otherwise.

During the last term Mrs. Howard assisted him a part of the time. She is well adapted to such a situation, and added much to the profit of the school.

One obstacle to the progress of the schools the past year has been the frequent changes of teachers. Yet the attendance has been good, compared with previous years; a good degree of interest manifested by parents and scholars, and we think good return has been made for the outlay in maintaining these schools.

We must protest again, against the culpable negligence in making out the registers. Only two out of nine used in this district were filled up properly, and from some of them it was difficult to get the real facts in regard to the schools. Let teachers read and keep in mind the law on this subject.

J. M. STOW,
J. WM. KNIGHT,
HENRY G. WHEELOCK.

TABLE III.

DISTRICT No. 1.

	SPRING TERM.			FALL TERM.			WINTER TERM.		
	Primary.	Intermediate.	High School.	Primary.	Intermediate.	High School.	Primary.	Intermediate.	High School.
Length of school, in weeks, - - -	12	12		12	12	12	12	12	12
Wages of Teacher per month, inc'g board, -	\$22,00	\$24,00		\$22,00	\$24,00	\$55,00	\$22,00	\$26,00	\$55,00
Scholars 4 years of age and upward, -	38	41		44	31	50 *	34	32	49
Average attendance, - - -	31.2	36		37	24½	43½	30	28½	42
Scholars between 4 and 16, - - -	38	40		44	31	28	34	32	27
Scholars over 16, - - -	0	1		0	0	22	0	0	22
Number of tardinesses, - - -	5	9		5	100	94	0	13	82
Number not absent, - - -	4	4		3	0	9	3	2	2
Number not tardy, - - -	34	35	No School.	40	10	9	34	25	32
Number not absent or tardy, - - -	2	4		3	0	9	3	2	2
Number of absences, - - -	360	260		334	308	280	223	220	395
Visits by Superintending Committee, -	8	8		6	8	9	7	7	11
Visits by Prudential Committee, - -	1	2		4	0	2	2	2	2
Visits by citizens and others, - - -	128	100		62	41	65	45	44	32

No.	Date	Description	Amount	Balance
1	1890-1-1	To Balance	100.00	100.00
2	1890-1-15	By Cash	50.00	150.00
3	1890-1-30	To Cash	25.00	175.00
4	1890-2-1	By Cash	75.00	250.00
5	1890-2-15	To Cash	100.00	350.00
6	1890-2-28	By Cash	125.00	475.00
7	1890-3-1	To Cash	150.00	625.00
8	1890-3-15	By Cash	175.00	800.00
9	1890-3-30	To Cash	200.00	1000.00
10	1890-4-1	By Cash	225.00	1225.00
11	1890-4-15	To Cash	250.00	1475.00
12	1890-4-30	By Cash	275.00	1750.00
13	1890-5-1	To Cash	300.00	2050.00
14	1890-5-15	By Cash	325.00	2375.00
15	1890-5-30	To Cash	350.00	2725.00
16	1890-6-1	By Cash	375.00	3100.00
17	1890-6-15	To Cash	400.00	3500.00
18	1890-6-30	By Cash	425.00	3925.00
19	1890-7-1	To Cash	450.00	4375.00
20	1890-7-15	By Cash	475.00	4850.00
21	1890-7-30	To Cash	500.00	5350.00
22	1890-8-1	By Cash	525.00	5875.00
23	1890-8-15	To Cash	550.00	6425.00
24	1890-8-30	By Cash	575.00	7000.00
25	1890-9-1	To Cash	600.00	7600.00
26	1890-9-15	By Cash	625.00	8225.00
27	1890-9-30	To Cash	650.00	8875.00
28	1890-10-1	By Cash	675.00	9550.00
29	1890-10-15	To Cash	700.00	10250.00
30	1890-10-30	By Cash	725.00	10975.00
31	1890-11-1	To Cash	750.00	11725.00
32	1890-11-15	By Cash	775.00	12500.00
33	1890-11-30	To Cash	800.00	13300.00
34	1890-12-1	By Cash	825.00	14125.00
35	1890-12-15	To Cash	850.00	14975.00
36	1890-12-30	By Cash	875.00	15850.00
37	1891-1-1	To Cash	900.00	16750.00
38	1891-1-15	By Cash	925.00	17675.00
39	1891-1-30	To Cash	950.00	18625.00
40	1891-2-1	By Cash	975.00	19600.00
41	1891-2-15	To Cash	1000.00	20600.00
42	1891-2-28	By Cash	1025.00	21625.00
43	1891-3-1	To Cash	1050.00	22675.00
44	1891-3-15	By Cash	1075.00	23750.00
45	1891-3-30	To Cash	1100.00	24850.00
46	1891-4-1	By Cash	1125.00	25975.00
47	1891-4-15	To Cash	1150.00	27125.00
48	1891-4-30	By Cash	1175.00	28300.00
49	1891-5-1	To Cash	1200.00	29500.00
50	1891-5-15	By Cash	1225.00	30725.00
51	1891-5-30	To Cash	1250.00	31975.00
52	1891-6-1	By Cash	1275.00	33250.00
53	1891-6-15	To Cash	1300.00	34550.00
54	1891-6-30	By Cash	1325.00	35875.00
55	1891-7-1	To Cash	1350.00	37225.00
56	1891-7-15	By Cash	1375.00	38600.00
57	1891-7-30	To Cash	1400.00	40000.00
58	1891-8-1	By Cash	1425.00	41425.00
59	1891-8-15	To Cash	1450.00	42875.00
60	1891-8-30	By Cash	1475.00	44350.00
61	1891-9-1	To Cash	1500.00	45850.00
62	1891-9-15	By Cash	1525.00	47375.00
63	1891-9-30	To Cash	1550.00	48925.00
64	1891-10-1	By Cash	1575.00	50500.00
65	1891-10-15	To Cash	1600.00	52100.00
66	1891-10-30	By Cash	1625.00	53725.00
67	1891-11-1	To Cash	1650.00	55375.00
68	1891-11-15	By Cash	1675.00	57050.00
69	1891-11-30	To Cash	1700.00	58750.00
70	1891-12-1	By Cash	1725.00	60475.00
71	1891-12-15	To Cash	1750.00	62225.00
72	1891-12-30	By Cash	1775.00	64000.00
73	1892-1-1	To Cash	1800.00	65800.00
74	1892-1-15	By Cash	1825.00	67625.00
75	1892-1-30	To Cash	1850.00	69475.00
76	1892-2-1	By Cash	1875.00	71350.00
77	1892-2-15	To Cash	1900.00	73250.00
78	1892-2-28	By Cash	1925.00	75175.00
79	1892-3-1	To Cash	1950.00	77125.00
80	1892-3-15	By Cash	1975.00	79100.00
81	1892-3-30	To Cash	2000.00	81100.00
82	1892-4-1	By Cash	2025.00	83125.00
83	1892-4-15	To Cash	2050.00	85175.00
84	1892-4-30	By Cash	2075.00	87250.00
85	1892-5-1	To Cash	2100.00	89350.00
86	1892-5-15	By Cash	2125.00	91475.00
87	1892-5-30	To Cash	2150.00	93625.00
88	1892-6-1	By Cash	2175.00	95800.00
89	1892-6-15	To Cash	2200.00	98000.00
90	1892-6-30	By Cash	2225.00	100225.00
91	1892-7-1	To Cash	2250.00	102475.00
92	1892-7-15	By Cash	2275.00	104750.00
93	1892-7-30	To Cash	2300.00	107050.00
94	1892-8-1	By Cash	2325.00	109375.00
95	1892-8-15	To Cash	2350.00	111725.00
96	1892-8-30	By Cash	2375.00	114100.00
97	1892-9-1	To Cash	2400.00	116500.00
98	1892-9-15	By Cash	2425.00	118925.00
99	1892-9-30	To Cash	2450.00	121375.00
100	1892-10-1	By Cash	2475.00	123850.00

